

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

I also question the ethics of any station or broadcasting group that demands or forces local stations to broadcast anything such as "Stolen Honor." Unless it's a news program, and equal access is given to all qualified candidates, opinions should not be broadcast over public airwaves. I am not partisan in my objection to airing political propaganda labelled as a documentary and would object to the showing of "Fahrenheit 911." The fact that Sinclair controls so many stations across the US should not entitle it to air its owner's opinions as facts.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.